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February 6, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

### **Statewide Student Informational Fairs Slated To Raise College Awareness, Readiness**

A statewide slate of college awareness and readiness fairs this year for Louisiana eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-graders is aimed at ensuring that when the new admissions requirements for Louisiana's public four-year universities take effect in the fall of 2005, students who are likely to be entering college at that time will not be caught off-guard. The fairs, which will be hosted at public colleges and universities around the state (see preliminary schedule below), will answer students' and parents' questions about college and encourage them to begin taking measures now to be academically ready for college when the time comes.

The college readiness fairs, supported by the Louisiana Board of Regents, will provide opportunities for personal interaction with representatives from a wide sampling of Louisiana postsecondary campuses. Students will also receive valuable information on such topics as the new four-year admissions requirements, the TOPS program and other tuition assistance, and how to select and apply to a college or university.

"The fairs are an excellent opportunity for college-bound students to get the facts on what will be required of them when they enter college and what they can begin doing now to make sure they meet those expectations," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. "I encourage all students and their parents to attend a fair in their area."

The new four-year admissions requirements, already being phased in at many of Louisiana's public four-year universities, are an important part of Louisiana's "Master Plan For Public, Postsecondary Education, which began implementation in 2001. Among the Master Plan's primary goals is the enhancement of both *access* to postsecondary education and student *success* once enrolled. Key to accomplishing these objectives are the new admission requirements, in conjunction with the enhancement of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, which will provide a postsecondary education entry point for students who may not be academically ready for a four-year institution.

The new admissions requirements for each specific four-year institution include successful completion of the Regents Core Curriculum (currently the same as the courses required for TOPS eligibility) and *one* of the following: a specified minimum grade-point

(More)

### **College Readiness Fairs** **ADD TWO**

average, ACT score *or* class ranking. These requirements will vary according to the institution. Parents, teachers and counselors are encouraged to contact the admissions office of the institution(s) in which they are interested for information on the new requirements. Campus-specific details on the 2005 admission requirements and additional information on Louisiana's public colleges and universities are available as well at the Board of Regents website: [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us).

A preliminary, tentative schedule for the 2004 College Readiness Fairs follows below. Please contact the host university of the fair you wish to attend for more information. Additional fairs are planned but dates and locations are not yet finalized. Those fairs will be announced as they are scheduled.

#### **2004 College Readiness Fairs Preliminary Schedule:**

LSU - Alexandria - March 10, 9:00 a.m.  
Contact: Shelly Kieffer - (318) 473-6508  
[www.lsua.edu](http://www.lsua.edu)

UL - Monroe - April 27, Time TBA  
Contact: Lisa Miller

Southern - BR - Date and time TBA  
Contact: Nathaniel Harrison

UL - Lafayette - May 1, Time TBA  
Contact: Andre Williams

Southeastern - May 8, 10:00 a.m.  
Contact: Chris McLellan - (985) 280-5637  
[cmclellan@selu.edu](mailto:cmclellan@selu.edu)

UNO - May 8, 9:00 a.m.  
Contact: Joe Cruse - (504) 280-6595

[www.uno.edu](http://www.uno.edu)

Northwestern - May 13, 8:00 a.m.

Contact: April Jordan - (318) 357-4503

[www.nslu.edu](http://www.nslu.edu)

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